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HARRIS LAWRENCE D
FM MONTEVIDEO 5437

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ACTION ARA-14
INFO CCI-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IA-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00
PM-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 SS-15 NSC-00 SP-02 /046 W
R-01 /078 W
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R 171652Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5451
SECDEF WASHDC
USIA WASHDC
INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ
INFO AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MADRID
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 5437

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SMIN, MILI, UY
SUBJ: SPECIAL TO DIE MCAULIFFE SACA
USIA FOR ILA, ICP/M
REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 5418 (B) MONTEVIDEO 5419

1. SUMMARY. GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS HAS LOW PROFILE ON THE INDEPENDENCE JURIST VISIT AS ANOTHER MEASURE IN USG HUMAN RIGHTS ATTACK ON URUGUAY. QUOTING SEMI-OFFICIAL SOURCES, PRESS REPORT IT AS 9TH SECOND BLOW IN A ONE-TWO COMBINATION DIRECTED BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE WITH FIRST BEING THE GENERAL INQUIRY
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VISIT. WE ARE INFORMING INTERESTED PRESS THAT THE JURIST GROUP HAS ONLY PRIVATE MISSION AND HAS NO CONNECTION WITH USG, ALTHOUGH AT REC WISH HAVE BEEN ASSISTED GAIN IN GAINING OFFICIAL CONTACT. OBVIOUSLY, THOSE INTERESTED PARTIES IN THE GOVERNMENT WHO CARE TO READ THE ISSUE AT THIS TIME HAVE REACTED ON THIS LATEST VISIT TO SUIT THEIR PURPOSES.
END SUMMARY
BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED
A. AFTERNOON OF DECEMBER 16 THE MONTEVIDEO PRESS CARRIED IN ON THE VISIT OF THE INDEPENDENT HUMAN RIGHTS GROUP HEADED BY ROBERT GOLDMAN. PRO-GOVERNMENT "EL PAIS" SPREAD THE STORY ALL OVER ITS FRONT PAGE DECEMBER 17, CRESCENDO IN FOUR SIX-COLUMN HEADLINES "INTERVIEW FROM THE U.S." ANDRES MISSION IN MONTEVIDEO" AND SUBHEADED "GOLDMAN, AUTHOR OF ANTI-URUGUAYAN REPORT, MEMBER (OF MISSION)" AND "OAS REPORT MADE BY COMMUNIST

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY D. Mann DATE 6/29/80
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. NSC/DOE
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKING
DECLASSIFIED ☑ RELEASABLE ☑
RELEASE DENIED ☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5555

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SUBJECT: "MEDIA REACTION".

1. SUMMARY: MONTEVIDEO'S PRESS REACTED VERY STRONGLY TO THE ARREST OF LT. COL. JULIO MARIA SANGUINETTI, AN ACTIVE DUTY URUGUAYAN ARMY OFFICER, BY ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES. THE ARREST WAS WIDELY REPORTED AND COMMENTED ON BY ALL MEDIA. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA REACTED MORE MODERATELY THAN THE OPPOSITION PRESS, BUT ALL CONDEMNED THE ARREST AS A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND AN INFRINGEMENT OF URUGUAYAN SOVEREIGNTY. THE OPPOSITION PRESS ALSO CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ALLEGED WEAKNESS IN DEALING WITH THE ARGENTINES. END SUMMARY.

2. ALL MONTEVIDEO NEWSPAPERS REACTED STRONGLY TO THE ARREST OF LT. COL. JULIO MARIA SANGUINETTI BY ARGENTINE AUTHORITIES. THE ARREST WAS WIDELY REPORTED AND COMMENTED ON BY ALL MEDIA. THE GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED MEDIA REACTED MORE MODERATELY THAN THE OPPOSITION PRESS, BUT ALL CONDEMNED THE ARREST AS A VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND AN INFRINGEMENT OF URUGUAYAN SOVEREIGNTY. THE OPPOSITION PRESS ALSO CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT FOR ITS ALLEGED WEAKNESS IN DEALING WITH THE ARGENTINES. END SUMMARY.

3. MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

4. [illegible] LOCAL PRESS WAS QUICK TO POINT OUT THAT [illegible] VISIT OF LT. GEN. RC AHLERS [illegible] MONTEVIDEO SINCE LAST TUESDAY [illegible] VISIT OF GEN. RC AHLERS TO AUTHOR [illegible] WITH THE VISIT OF GEN. RC AHLERS TO URUGUAYAN MILITARY CIRCLES, IT IS INTERPRETED [illegible] THAT THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS BEHIND [illegible] ARREST OF SANGUINETTI. IN SOME [illegible] ITS OWN, LIKE [illegible] OF SANGUINETTI, [illegible] OFFICER, AT IN [illegible] OF THE RIO DE LA PLATA, AVAILING [illegible] OF THE INTER-AMERICAN [illegible] ARMIES AND OTHER PRIVATE ORGANIZAT- [illegible] IT IS FOR THE PURPOSE OF THE RECENT ARRIVALS". [illegible] AND CERTAIN AREAS VISITED AND THE IMPRISONMENT [illegible] IN THE MONTEVIDEO MEDIA DISAGREE IN AND [illegible] RESPECTIVELY OF LIGHT TORPEDO COVERAGE IN THE [illegible] RELATIVELY OF LIGHT TORPEDO COVERAGE IN THE [illegible] BARRAS AND SAID SOURCES. DOWN OF THE RIOTS, [illegible] STRESS [illegible] PRIVATE, INDEPENDENT NATURE OF [illegible] VISIT. [illegible] ALL AT OTICA FREE CONFIRMED [illegible] THE PRESS'S VISIT. [illegible] WISH TO STRESS THIS POINT, AT LEAST [illegible] THE SIDE [illegible] WISH TO STRESS THIS POINT, AT LEAST [illegible] IN THE INTERIOR SIDE OF.

5. [illegible] OPPOSITION PRO-MILITARY "LA MANANA" HEADED [illegible] OPPOSITION [illegible] PRO-MILITARY "LA MANANA" HEADED [illegible] AN ARTICLE: IMPLIED 'JURIST COMMISSION' NOT [illegible] PRO-CED' AND, JUMPING TO ITS EDITORIAL PAGE, [illegible] ESTABLISH ITS STORY UNDER A SIX-COLUMN HEADING, "URUGUAY DOES NOT RECOGNIZE 'COMMISSION' STATES OF [illegible] JURISTS". THE STORY ALSO CARRIES A PICTURE OF [illegible] JURISTS, MRS. JOAQUIN MARGINEZ, ROBERT GOLDMAN [illegible] AND JUAN IOLIS WELL.

6. PRESTIGIOUS INDEPENDENT "EL DIA" PLACED ITS [illegible] STORY IN A SECOND-PAGE THREE-COLUMN BOX HEADED SIMPLY, "[illegible] INTERNATIONAL JURISTS ARRIVE EL DIA". [illegible] EVENING "MUNDO OBRERO" CARRIED A SHORT [illegible]

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[illegible] CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 UNDER SIX MISCELLANEOUS HEADING [illegible] "OAS INCREMENTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS [illegible]

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27 MONTEVIDEO 8757

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"EL PAIS"-OWNED AFTERNOON TABLOID SEATTLE [illegible] IN ITS ISSUE
PARAGRAPH ONE OF THE GLOBE ARTICLE IS "ON AN AFFAIRS
MISSION OF THE CAS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION" IS IN
MONTEVIDEO TO PREPARE / REPORT ON CONDITIONS IN URUGUAY.
2. NATIONALISTIC PRO-MILITARY "EL PAIS" EVENING
DECEMBER 16 PUBLISHED ITS INTERVIEW WITH FOUR GROUP
MEMBERS UNDER ONE SIMPLE HEADING, "JURISTS
FROM U.S., CHAIN AND FRANCE IN URUGUAY".
3. EMBASSY IS RESPONDING TO PRESS QUERIES THAT JURIST
GROUP CAME ON A PRIVATE MISSION AND HAS NO OFFICIAL
TIES TO THE USG. SINCE SOME PRESS SOURCES HAVE MADE
OF JURIST GROUP'S VISIT TO EMBASSY, WE ARE ACCORDINGLY
OUR CONTACT WITH THE GROUP IN CARRYING WITH OUR
OPEN DOOR POLICY. THE JURIST GROUP HAS CALLED
PRESS CONFERENCE THIS AFTERNOON AND HAS INDICATED IT
WILL EMPHASIZE ITS INDEPENDENT CHARACTER AND DENY ANY
AFFILIATIONS WITH USG, AND UNCLASSIFIED.
4. END CONFIDENTIAL.
1. COMMENT: WHILE STRONGLY DENIES FINDINGS IN THE
GLOBE ARTICLE, NO DOUBT AREATA TO
PRESS ATTACK ON THE PENTAGON AND THE USG HAVE NOT
[illegible]IZED ON THE INTERNATIONAL JURISTS GROUP VISIT TO
FURTHER STAVE OFFER SOMEWHAT ILLEGITIMATE PURPOSES.
4. END [illegible]
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